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Stone access to Oswald site blocked

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas County commissioners Tuesday again turned down movie director Oliver Stone's proposal to film from the former Texas School Book Depository's sixth floor in a re-enactment of President John F. Kennedy's assassination in the film "JFK."

Commissioners said they wouldn't reconsider their decision against allowing Stone use of the sixth floor and a sniper's view of Elm Street. It was the third time in three weeks that the Kennedy film's co-producer had made the request.

"I am not going to vote for this," said commissioner Nancy Judy. "But you may have two or three votes to do it."

Commissioner John Wiley Price also decided against the proposal, saying, "I definitely will not support it."

One alternative is filming from the building's seventh floor, officials have said. But commissioners decided against allowing access to the sixth floor, which was converted into a museum in 1989, displaying films and other materials on the life, presidency and death of Kennedy.

"No formal vote was taken, but there were indications from the commissioners court that it couldn't support the idea," a court spokeswoman, who would not be identified, said. "One commissioner said, 'I don't intend to support it.' Another said he didn't intend to support it either, while a third said, 'We have already given them some latitude in this.'

"County Judge Lee Jackson said it appears there is not sufficient interest from the court, or authorization, to go ahead with negotiation of an agreement," said the spokeswoman.

But she said the Dallas County Historical Foundation could still work out a deal with the movie producer.

Some commissioners said earlier they wanted to approve the Stone request to position movie cameras in the sixth-floor window where Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly shot Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, during a downtown motorcade.

Judy had previously voted with Jackson against giving Stone access to county property.

Co-producer Clayton Townsend, in the proposal, had agreed to limit

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sixth-floor filming to four days between April 15 and April 23, with movie crews using the area only from 6:30 a.m. until the Kennedy exhibit there opens at 10 a.m.

Townsend had said he wanted to film from the window where the Warren Commission said Oswald fired three shots.

Last week, the historical foundation's board of directors, which oversees the sixth-floor exhibit, voted 5-4 to give Stone access to the facility.